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MONTANA STATE OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM



# NEWSLETTER

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*September 1997*

## *"Montana Career Guide: Making Tracks for Your Future" Now Available*

The "Montana Career Guide: Making Tracks for Your Future" is now available. Copies of the career guide will be distributed to all high school juniors and seniors at no cost to schools.

High school counselors will receive copies of the Montana Career Guide User's Handbook. The handbook has a wide variety of activities for counselors and teachers to use with their students as they incorporate the career guide with their career curriculum.

The career guide has not been published since 1991 when it was called "The Big Sky Career Guide." The new edition of the career guide features current information on identifying career interests, occupational data including employment outlook and average entry wages, Montana colleges and proprietary schools, and finding employment.

In addition to updated information, the career guide sports a new, up-

to-date look. To help with the design of the career guide, a School-to-Work intern was hired by SOICC/MCIS. Susanna Haines, a senior at Capital High School, designed two characters, Annie Wun and Beez Umbody, to lead readers through the career guide. Annie and Beez explore important career decisions like "Who Am I?", "Where Am I Going?", and "How Do I Get There?"

Having Susanna work on the tabloid enabled the SOICC/MCIS staff to produce a career guide that will be useful not only to high school students, but to anyone considering a career change.

The career guide will be available to agencies for a charge of \$.25 per copy. The User's Handbook will be available for \$1.00 per copy. If you would like to order copies of the career guide, call Kelly Chapman at 1-800-633-0229 or send a written request to SOICC/MCIS, PO Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624.

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*"He who has imagination without learning has wings and no feet."  
-Joseph Joubert*

# MCIS Fall Training Schedule

We are very excited to announce our fall training schedule for MCIS. This year's training will be specialized into two groups: new users and experienced users.

New user training will cover many basics that experienced users are already familiar with, such as Occupation Sort, Financial Aid Sort, and Micro-Skills.

Experienced user training will be a

hands-on activity-based session. Our hope is that those attending this training will be able to use the activities with their students and/or clients.

Both sessions will cover the new features of the 1997-98 MCIS software. Several enhancements have been added to this year's release, including an on-line entrepreneur's quiz.

Seating will be limited to twenty people per session. Those attending the new user training may also sign up for the experienced user training if they would like. There is no charge to attend these training sessions.

To reserve your seat at one of the training sessions, please call Kelly Chapman at 1-800-633-0229.

| <u>DATE</u>          | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>TIME</u>   | <u>LEVEL</u>     |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Wednesday, October 8 | Glendive        | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Glendive        | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |
| Monday, October 20   | Butte           | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Butte           | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |
| Thursday, October 23 | Billings        | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Billings        | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |
| Monday, October 27   | Kalispell       | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Kalispell       | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |
| Thursday, October 30 | Great Falls     | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Great Falls     | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |
| Tuesday, November 4  | Helena          | 8:00 - 10:00  | New User         |
|                      | Helena          | 10:30 - 12:30 | Experienced User |

## We'll See You at MEA, MVA

SOICC/MCIS will have booths at both the MEA Conference in Billings and the MVA Conference in Butte.

Stop by and say "hi", and we'll give you a free gift! We look forward to the opportunity to visit with our customers.

If you have comments or suggestions for us, please feel free to share them.

Lucie Willson, Occupation Analyst, and Rita Watson, Delivery System Information Specialist will be at the MVA Conference.

Annette Miller, SOICC Director, and Kelly Chapman, User Services Coordinator will be at the MEA Conference.



## SOICC Takes on One-Stop Career Center Training

As part of the One-Stop Career Center implementation grant awarded to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, SOICC/MCIS staff have been included as part of a team to deliver training to One-Stop Career Centers.

One-Stop Career Center training will cover use of a resource directory, labor market information resources, Internet (America's Job Bank, America's Talent Bank), Department of Public Health and Human Services Virtual Pavilion, and Montana Career Information System.

The training team consists of: Annette Miller, SOICC Director; Kelly Chapman, MCIS User Services Coordinator; Lynn Long, Helena Job Service Manager; Kathy Steil, Job Service Division Internet Specialist; a representative from Montana Job Training Partnership, Inc.; and a representative from the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Career Center participating agencies have been invited to the training in five communities during the month of October.

## SOICC Director Appointed to America's Training and Education Network

One of the most visited sites on the Internet is America's Job Bank (AJB). This site contains the largest pool of job openings anywhere. Soon America's Talent Bank (ATB) will be available in Montana. This site allows you to put your resume online for employers looking for prospective hires. When a position is posted on AJB it will look at the resumes in ATB for matches. Both the employer and the job seeker will know quickly if there is a potential match.

America's Training and Education Network (ATEN) will be an integrated component of America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS). America's Labor Market Information System will include AJB, ATB, ATEN, and Career InfoNet. ATEN will serve as a public conduit for information about, and access to, education and training resources and foster the emergence of a coherent, efficient, electronic marketplace for those resources. Annette Miller, SOICC Director, has been appointed to the ATEN consortium developing the network. She will be representing the interests and needs of Montana in the development of the ATEN model.

## More "Real Game" Products in the Works

Last year, Jody Ceartin, 5th grade teacher for Radley School in East Helena, piloted the Real Game. At the same time, three sites piloted the adult version, Real Life, Real Times. Both career development products had rave reviews, some of which are listed below:

*"...I really felt the Real Game was a great eye-opener for my World of Work students. They learned the dollars of job income will dictate to them their situation for spending! This is an excellent teaching tool for middle school students. I see the possibilities for using it in Consumer Sciences curriculum, too!"*

--Sixth grade teacher

*"I had a lot of fun learning about the 'real world'...even though I got a job as a truck driver!"*

*"I thought it was an interesting experience. I never realized how hard it is to*

*have bills and a home and a low-paying job!"*

--Sixth grade students

*"...Judging from the amount of participation and enthusiasm during the activities themselves, I would say this curriculum has been very well received. For some reason, assuming a role has allowed them to use problem-solving skills that they don't seem to use in other situations."*

--HRDC Counselor

SOICC is now participating in the development of K-3, 4-6, and 9-12 versions of the Real Game. The games let participants role play occupations, develop budgets, and learn how real life affects people's choices.

If you haven't seen these products yet, visit our booths at the MEA and MVA and we will show you why students and adults like the Real Game.

## 1997-98 Last Year for Micro-CIS

1997-98 will be the last year MCIS produces a DOS version of our software.

Improvements in technology over the past few years have made DOS products nearly obsolete. The Windows version of MCIS is much easier to use and understand and many users have decided to switch to the Windows version.

Another reason for discontinuing the DOS version of the software is that the national model used to build our software will no longer be producing a DOS version for Career Information System centers to build from.

We want to make the transition to the Windows version of MCIS as easy as possible. If you have questions about switching to the Windows version, please call Kelly Chapman at 1-800-633-0229.

## Get 20% Off Your MCIS Order!

Are you interested in big savings on your MCIS order? Are you part of a consortium or group with at least five MCIS users? If so, you are eligible to save 20% on your MCIS order. Here's how:

- ❖ Contact the members of your group to make sure that at least five are MCIS users. If you have fewer than five, talk to other members of your group to find out if they are interested in leasing the software.
- ❖ You (or someone else from your group) contacts MCIS at 1-800-633-0229 and enrolls your group. This contact person will be our point of reference for billing. All billing and collection for each site will be handled by this contact person.
- ❖ In addition to giving your group 20% off on each MCIS software purchase, we will notify you if we learn of others in your group that may be willing to participate.

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**Montana SOICC/MCIS  
PO Box 1728  
Helena MT 59624-1728**

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